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Attorney Docket No. B45082D1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Rentier, et al. 25 May 2001
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned Group Art Unit No.: Unknown
Filing Date: Herewith Examiner: Unknown
For: Vaccines Against Varicella Zoster Virus Gene 63 Product

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of this application, applicants respectfully request amendment of the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all claims.

Please add new claims 13-21 as follows:

13. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection, comprising administering to a patient a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising Varicella Zoster Virus IE63 protein or an immunologically functional derivative and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection, comprising administering to a patient a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid encoding IE63 or an immunologically functional derivative thereof.

15. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection as claimed in claim 13, additionally comprising other VZV antigens.

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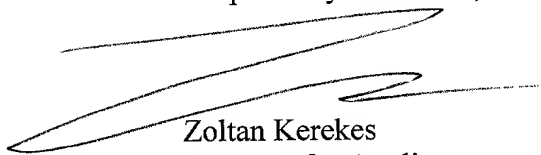
16. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second Varicella Zoster protein is selected from the group, gpI, gpII, gpIII, gpIV, gpV or IE62 or immunological functional derivative thereof.
17. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection as claimed in claim 13, additionally comprising an adjuvant.
18. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection as claimed in claim 17, wherein the adjuvant preferentially induces a TH1 response.
19. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection as claimed in claim 18, wherein the antigen is presented as an oil in water emulsion together with QS21 and 3D-MPL.
20. A method of producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising a Varicella Zoster virus IE63 protein, nucleic acid or immunologically functional derivative thereof, comprising mixing said protein, nucleic acid or derivative with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the excipient comprises an adjuvant.

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REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled all claims and have added new claims 13-21.
No new matter has been introduced.

Respectfully submitted,



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